ABSTRACT

Methods, systems, and articles of manufacture consistent with the present invention provide the ability to receive a communication (such as an electronic mail message) using a particular content server within a network. A minimal amount of information is received, such as an instruction set and a basic amount of content information. The instruction set is analyzed to determine references to content stored on a particular one of the content servers, namely the content server that is closest to an anticipated access point for the communication. While executing the instruction set and displaying the basic content information, a request for the communication's content is generated and sent to the content server. The content is received from the content server closest to the anticipated access point (typically the one closest to the requesting node), usually in a streaming format. The content is then displayed for the intended recipient.